Listing of the Claims:

Below is a listing of all claims using a strikethrough and underlining to show changes.

1. (currently amended) A messaging system comprising:

an interactive system for production and interchange of messages by users over a network;

~~a~~ an automated topic separator receiving user messages and separating messages according to different topics, wherein the automated topic separator separates messages or parts of messages according to words used in the messages;

and a user interface, coupled to said topic separator, for representing in a distinct way parts of messages that were separated by said topic separator.

2. (currently amended) The messaging system as in claim 1, further comprising a time synchronizer for time stamping messages, the topic separator being responsive to said time synchronizer to determine topical relationships between messages.

3. (original) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein said user interface displays messages in windows according to topic.

4. (original) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein said user interface displays messages in different colors according to topic.

5. (original) The messaging system as in claim 1, further comprising a security system to verify a user's identity.

6. (original) The messaging system as in claim 5, wherein said security system includes a database of questions from which random questions are posed to a user and whereby verification of validity of answers to posed questions is done by users of the system.

7. (currently amended) The messaging system as in claim 5, wherein said security system includes a biometric module for verification of a user's identity ~~identitfy~~.

8. (currently amended) A method of conducting a messaging session at a user's computer between two or more users over a network comprising the steps of:

receiving a message over the network from a user;

automatically identifying a topic of the received message based on words used in the message;

determining if the topic of the received message has changed from a previous message;

determining if a changed topic is a new topic; and

if a new topic, opening a new window to display the received message.

9. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein if the topic of a received message has not changed, further comprising the step of displaying the received message in a currently opened window.

10. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein if a changed topic is not a new topic, further comprising the step of displaying the received message in a previously opened window.

11. (currently amended) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

identifying a time of a received message; ~~the steps of~~

determining if the topic of the received message has changed from a previous message; and

determining if a changed topic is a new topic using the time of the received message to determine whether the topic has changed or is a new topic.

12. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of checking a user's identity.

13. (currently amended) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 12, wherein the step of checking a user's identity comprises the steps of asking the user random questions and evaluating the user's answers.

14. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 13, wherein the step of evaluating the user's answers is performed by another user.

15. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 12, wherein the step of checking a user's identity is performed using biometrics.

16. (new) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein the messaging system enables a subgroup of users to conduct a messaging session separately from other users of the messaging system.

17. (new) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein a subgroup of users comprising at least two users conducts a messaging session separately from other users.

18. (new) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein the automated topic separator is operable for indicating to the user when the topic of a message can not be decided by the topic separator.

19. (new) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein the topic of the received message can not be decided, and further comprising the step of indicating to the user that the topic of the received message could not be decided.